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REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office action of 13 Sep 2006.

Claims 1, 10-13, 17, and 19 are in the case, none as yet allowed.

Interview

Applicant's attorney expresses appreciation for courtesy extended by Examiner Kyle on 11 Sep 2006. It was noted that a copy of the Procedures reference was not provided with the Office Action dated on or about 22 Aug 2006, and the Examiner agreed to reissue the Office Action and provided the reference.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 10, 12-13, 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Maners, U.S. Patent 6,507,826 in view of *University of New Hampshire Financial and Administrative Procedures*, hereinafter, *Procedures*.

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over

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Maners in view of Procedures, and further in view of Barnes et al., U.S. Patent 5,970,475.

In rejecting these claims, the Examiner asserts several concepts as being obvious, drawing on his own many years as an accountant and, of course, the cited art.

With respect to claims 1, 10, 12-13, 17, and 19:

1. At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner seems to be equating invoices above and below a certain amount to those which relate to receivable and non-receivable commodities (in determining whether to execute a negative or positive confirmation process). This is not the meaning set forth in applicant's specification at page 13.

Applicants invention is represented as being particularly useful for goods and services not coming through a receiving dock, including automating preparation of a move ticket responsive to requestor entered positive confirmation [Specification, page 4, lines 15-19].

Commodities that typically designated as needing positive confirmation are those that would not flow through a traditional receiving dock where a dock worker takes parts off a truck, counts them, and then creates a receipt

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transaction into an application which bridges to the accounts payable system where a three way match would occur.

In applicant's invention, the commodities where positive confirmation would be configured are those like services. Examples of such services includes a painter painting an office, an electrician wiring a room, and a telecommunications worker installing a network router. The business that receives benefit from such services and pays for them does not want the invoices from the vendor for these services paid until a person explicitly concludes that the service was done and done to specification.

In applicant's invention, the way the positive confirmation process occurs this is: an invoice arrives and is checked against the purchase order. It is determined that the purchase order item referenced on the received invoice has a positive confirmation designated commodity (that is, a receivable commodity) for which there is no existing receipt. In accordance with applicant's invention, the system uses the invoice information to send a positive confirmation notice to the requester. That requester must respond to the positive confirmation notice. The response can be either: do not pay or pay it. If the response is to pay it, a good or service receipt is generated. Once that receipt reaches accounts payable (as an automated receipt

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transaction file), the three way match occurs and the invoice will be accepted for payment. Applicants are not claiming to be the first to do three way match. Rather, the novelty resides in the way the receipt for the goods or services is generated from the invoice and purchase order and submitted by the requester.

2. At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Procedures teaches three-way match, and it would be obvious to combine Procedures with Maners.

The process taught by Maners is as follows. An invoice arrives for which there is no receipt. Consequently, the invoice is not accepted for payment. A purchasing person would then must investigate the missing receipt. To do so, he would need to contact the requester to see if the goods/service was received/performed. If the answer is yes, the purchasing person would then contact a person that had access and authorization to create receipts. That person would then create the missing receipt which would flow to accounts payable where the three way match would take place. Applicants claimed process for generating the receipt, as described above, improves on this procedure. Consequently, the combination of Maners and the three-way match taught by Procedures do not teach applicant's process for generating receipts.

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3. At page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that front-end and back-end processing are not claimed in sufficient detail to clearly demark them.

Applicants call to the attention of the Examiner the material beginning at page 9, line 1, read in connection with Figure 2.

"In operation, responsive to a purchase request entered by a requestor at browser 46, front end RCW server 40 generates and sends to back end SAP server a requisition 51. SAP 42 generates therefrom a purchase order 87 for transmission (if electronic) or delivery (if paper or fax) to vendor 48. The requisition and resulting purchase order may be for materials or services selected from a catalog maintained at RCW 40 and accessed by requestor 46."

Applicants represent that this material adequately describes these peripheral aspects of the process to one of ordinary skill in the art, and provide the necessary detail in support of the claim references.

4. With respect to claim 11, at page 6 of the Office Action the Examiner asserts the obviousness of combining Maners and Barnes regarding posting (page 6).

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Applicants note that their invention is not directed to the fact that posting a receipt causes an invoice to be paid. Rather, applicant's invention is directed to the manner in which to collect the receipt from the requester responsive to the arrival of an invoice from the supplier. Applicants are not merely claiming that doing a receipt triggers payment. Rather, it is the process of generating that receipt. The combination of Barnes, Maners and Procedures does not teach this process.

Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the process of generating the goods receipt, and urge that claims 1, 10-13, 17, and 19 be allowed as amended.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendment be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1, 10-13, 17, and 19.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of

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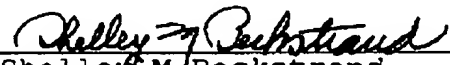
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the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

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By


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